

CLAIMS:

1. A disk drive unit having a disk loading mechanism, comprising:
a housing having an opening in a wall thereof for inserting or removing a disk
into or from the housing,
a disk drive accommodated in the housing and adapted to engage and rotate a
5 disk in order to allow a head to read data from or write data on a disk,
a loading mechanism for receiving a disk through the opening in the housing
and bringing it into engagement with the disk drive, and vice versa, said loading mechanism
comprising:
a slide which is slidable with respect to the housing and the disk drive between
10 a first position for receiving a disk and a second position covering the opening and allowing
the disk drive to engage the disk,
wherein the slide is slidable substantially alongside the wall of the housing in
which the opening is made and is adapted to receive the disk through the opening in the
housing.
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2. The disk drive unit of claim 1, wherein the slide comprises a tray to receive
the disk in it, said tray having a bottom and a circumferential wall sealing against the
adjacent wall of the housing.
- 20 3. The disk drive unit of claim 2, wherein the bottom of the tray is provided with
a (closable) opening to gain access to the disk.
4. The disk drive unit of claim 2 or 3, wherein the tray of the slide is slidably
guided within the housing, along the inner side of said housing wall having the opening.
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5. The disk drive unit of one of the preceding claims, wherein the slide and the
disk drive are operatively coupled to obtain a relative movement during the sliding
movement of the slide so as to bring a shaft of the disk drive into and out of engagement with
the disk.

6. The disk drive unit of claim 5, wherein the slide and the disk drive are mechanically coupled through an operating mechanism.

5 7. The disk drive unit of claim 6, wherein the operating mechanism comprises at least a groove on one of said slide and disk drive, extending mainly in a direction substantially parallel to the sliding direction of the slide, and furthermore an engagement member on the other one of said slide and disk drive and adapted to come into engagement with the groove to effect said relative movement.

10 8. The disk drive unit of claim 6 or 7, wherein the disk drive is pivotable about an axis on a side of the disk drive closest to the opening and extending substantially perpendicularly to the direction of movement of the slide and substantially parallel to the disk drive.

15 9. The disk drive unit of claim 8, wherein the slide is manually slidable.

10. The disk drive unit of claim 9, wherein the slide is guided on guides on the outside of the housing, which guides are preferably arranged on walls of the housing adjacent the wall having the opening and extend parallel to the direction of movement of the slide.

20 11. The disk drive unit of one of the preceding claims, wherein the slide comprises a cover dimensioned so as to cover the opening in the housing wall when the slide is in the second position, which cover slides along the wall of the housing containing the opening, preferably on the outside thereof.

12. The disk drive unit of claims 4 and 11, wherein the cover and tray are positioned substantially adjacent to each other.

30 13. The disk drive unit of claim 11 or 12, wherein the cover is provided with operating means of the disk drive unit, such as a display, keys, and the like, and wherein there is an electrical connection between the cover and the housing.

14. The disk drive unit of claim 11, 12 or 13, wherein the cover is adapted to cover operating means of the disk drive unit, such as a display, keys, or the like, when in its second position.

5 15. The disk drive unit of one of the preceding claims, integrated in a portable, handheld device, such as a mobile telephone.

16. The disk drive unit according to one of the preceding claims, intended to be used with a disk contained in an openable cartridge, the unit comprising means for
10 positioning and/or opening the cartridge.